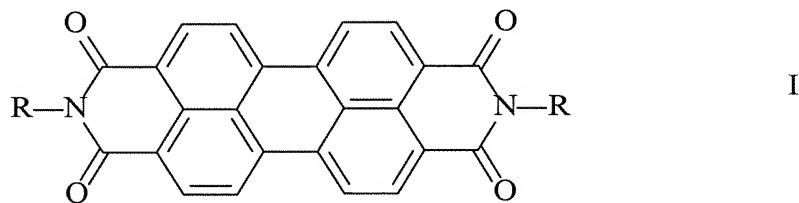


Abstract

A process for preparing perylene-3,4:9,10-tetracarboxylic diimides of the general formula I



where

comprising

R — is C₁-C₃₀-alkyl whose carbon chain may be interrupted by one or more O moieties and/or which may be substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of C₅-C₈-cycloalkyl (which may be substituted by one or more C₁-C₆-alkyl substituents), phenyl or phenyl C₁-C₆-alkyl (which may each be substituted by one or more C₁-C₁₈-alkyl and/or C₁-C₆-alkoxy substituents), OCOR¹, N(R¹)₂, SO₂NH₂, SO₂N(R¹)₂, CON(R¹)₂ and COOR¹;

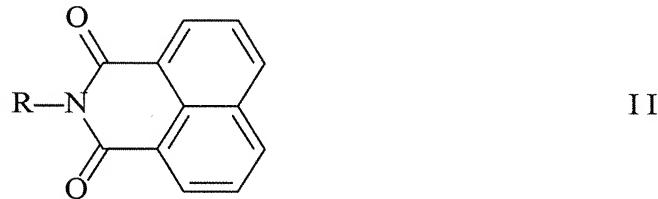
C₅-C₈-cycloalkyl whose carbon skeleton may be interrupted by one or more moieties selected from the group consisting of O, S and NR² and/or which may be substituted by one or more C₁-C₆-alkyl substituents;

~~phenyl, phenyl-C₄-C₆-alkyl, naphthyl or hetaryl, which may each be substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of C₁-C₁₈-alkyl, C₁-C₆-alkoxy, phenylazo, naphthylazo, pyridylazo, pyrimidylazo, cyano, N(R¹)₂, CON(R¹)₂ and COOR¹;~~

R¹—is C₁-C₆-alkyl, C₅-C₈-cycloalkyl, phenyl or phenyl-C₁-C₆-alkyl;

R²—is C₁-C₆-alkyl, phenyl or phenyl-C₁-C₆-alkyl,

by dimerizing a naphthalene-1,8-dicarboximide of the formula II



~~comprises effecting said dimerizing in a reaction medium consisting essentially of an apolar aprotic organic solvent and an alkali metal base and subsequently reoxidizing the resulting alkali metal salt of the leuco form of the perylene-3,4:9,10-tetracarboxylic diimide in the presence of a polar solvent,~~

~~and also preparation of perylene-3,4:9,10-tetracarboxylic dianhydride and naphthalene-1,8-dicarboximides.~~